

## **Adrian Zapata, Treasurer**

*Hispanic*

*Male*

L. Adrian Zapata was born in Basingstoke, England to Luis and Leticia Zapata of Laredo, Texas. Adrian's father, Luis, had a 23-year career in the United States Air Force that took him on assignments around the world while also allowing him to raise his family along the way. Adrian spent his elementary school years in Omaha, Nebraska and Misawa, Japan before moving to Laredo once his father retired from the Air Force. Adrian went to United South High School in the south side of Laredo and later graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations. Adrian has a track record of success in sales and marketing while working in the direct sales, financial services and pharmaceutical industries all throughout South and Central Texas. Not only has Adrian excelled in the primary employment positions he has held, but he has also managed to carve out time to start his own small business venture, A to Z Management and Insurance. In July of 2018 Adrian married his best friend and adventure buddy, Nohely Zapata. Adrian and his wife, Nohely, enjoy attending church, playing tennis, running and kayaking the Rio Grande together. Adrian also plays basketball and recently participated in the Men's city league hosted by the Laredo Park's department. Adrian has a passion for volunteering and has dedicated much of his free time to serving the community through different local non-profit organizations.

In the late 1990's and early 2000's Adrian's father served on the RGISC board and oversaw the creation of the Paso Del Indio Trail at Laredo College. Luis was an advocate of the preservation of green spaces and protecting the Rio Grande from unnecessary pollution and damage. In the summer of 2006 Adrian's father, Luis Zapata, passed away from a battle with pancreatic cancer. Knowing how much the local environment meant to the family, Adrian's mother Leticia, joined the RGISC board and valiantly pushed the RGSIC cause throughout the local school system. In May of 2017 Adrian was nominated and elected to be on the RGSIC Board of Directors, following in both his parent's footsteps.

With the Rio Grande International Study Center serving as Laredo's only environmental non-profit there are many issues that the organization tackles head on. Adrian feels most passionately about the cleaning and preservation of Laredo's only fresh water drinking source; the Rio Grande. Adrian hopes to be able to assist RGISC in advocating for a clean Rio Grande through grassroots campaigning, policy change and consistent fundraising. By following in his parent's footsteps, Adrian

hopes to help lead the way for his Millennial generation. He knows that protecting the environment is a bipartisan issue that everyone should have a stake in.